

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

JOSEPH R WOOD
Claimant

APPEAL 21A-UI-05872-AD-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 01/03/21
Claimant: Appellant (6)

Iowa Code 96.4(3) – Eligibility – Able to and Available for Work
Iowa Code Ch. 17A – Iowa Administrative Procedure Act
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.8(1) – Dismissal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On February 22, 2021, Joseph Wood (claimant/appellant) filed an appeal from the unemployment insurance decision dated February 17, 2021 (reference 04) that denied benefits as of February 14, 2021 based on a finding claimant failed to report for a reemployment and eligibility assessment on February 15, 2021.

A hearing was set for April 30, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Before a hearing was held, the agency issued a favorable decision to the appellant, dated April 12, 2021 (reference 06), finding claimant eligible for benefits beginning February 14, 2021 based on his participating in the assessment. This decision made the issue on appeal moot. Therefore, no testimony was necessary and no hearing was held.

ISSUE:

Should the appeal be dismissed because the issue on appeal has been resolved in the appellant's favor?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

The decision appealed has been administratively resolved in favor of the appellant by the unemployment insurance decision dated April 12, 2021 (reference 06).

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge dismisses the appeal.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.8(1) provides:

Withdrawals, dismissals, and postponements.

(1) An appeal may be withdrawn at any time prior to the issuance of a decision upon the request of the appellant and with the approval of an administrative law judge or the manager or chief administrative law judge of the appeals bureau. Requests for withdrawal may be made in writing or orally, provided the oral request is recorded by the presiding officer.

An appeal may be dismissed upon the request of a party or in the agency's discretion when the issue or issues on appeal have been resolved in the appellant's favor.

Generally, courts and administrative tribunals do not decide issues when the underlying controversy is moot. *Rhiner v. State*, 703 N.W.2d 174, 176 (Iowa 2005). "A case is moot if it no longer presents a justiciable controversy because the issues involved are academic or nonexistent." *Iowa Bankers Ass'n v. Iowa Credit Union Dep't*, 335 N.W.2d 439, 442 (Iowa 1983). As the agency resolved the prior disqualification in favor of the appellant prior to the hearing, there is no issue for the administrative law judge to adjudicate rendering the appeal moot.

DECISION:

The appeal of the unemployment insurance decision dated February 17, 2021 (reference 04) that denied benefits as of February 14, 2021 is dismissed, as it is moot.

The hearing set for April 30, 2021 at 9 a.m. is CANCELLED.



Andrew B. Duffelmeyer
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209
Fax (515) 478-3528

April 16, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

abd/ol